

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

CONFERENCE

Call to Order: By **SEN. TOM KEATING**, on April 17, 1999 at 10:30
A.M., in Room 312 - 1 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Keating, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Sen. Steve Doherty (D)
Rep. Royal Johnson, Chairman (R)
Rep. Red Menahan (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Taryn Purdy, Legislative Fiscal Division
Joanne Gunderson, Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 13, 4/16/1999
Executive Action: HB 13

CONFERENCE HEARING ON HB 13Call to Order:

Sen. Tom Keating called the meeting to order. He stated that the purpose of the conference committee was to discuss the rejection of the Senate amendments to HB 13.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 16}

Motion: Rep. Johnson moved that the Senate recede the amendment to **HB 13** created a new section 11 providing health insurance premium benefits to legislators upon the termination due to term limits.

Discussion:

Rep. Menahan resisted the motion.

Sen. Beck questioned **John McEwen**, Department of Administration, about the benefits.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16 - 87}

Substitute Motion: **SEN. BECK** made a substitute motion that the Senate amendment to **HB 13 BE AMENDED to reduce the duration of the benefits from 3 years to 6 months.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 87 - 91; Comments : Sen. Beck felt a termed-legislator should be treated like a RIF state employee.}

Discussion:

Sen. Doherty asked if this would mean legislators would be treated as any other state employee.

Sen. Keating discussed the difference between a RIF state employee versus a termed-out legislator.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 91 - 102}

Sen. Beck said that only in the case of health benefits should they be treated the same.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 102 - 110}

Vote: Motion carried 4-2, **Sen. Keating** and **Rep. Johnson** voting no (Roll Call Vote #1).

Motion: **Rep. Johnson** moved that **HB 13 BE AMENDED to restore the pay grade to 8 back from the Senate amendments which raised it to grade 10.**

Discussion:

Rep. Johnson discussed his reason for the motion.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 110 - 155}

Rep. Menahan resisted the motion. He felt it was wrong that a state employee would have to take a pay cut to come to serve in the Legislature.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 155 - 180}

Sen. Beck asked **John McEwen** to describe the difference between the duties of a grade 8 versus grade 10.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 180 - 201; Comments : Grade 8 includes administrative clerks and resident care aides while Grade 10 includes technicians and prison guards.}

Sen. Keating discussed with **John McEwen** the per diem and expense accounts and how they apply to legislators versus state employees.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 201 - 211}

Sen. Beck said the per diem and expense accounts covered the extra expense incurred, such as rent, eating out, etc. for legislators to come to serve.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 211 - 224}

Rep. Johnson and **Sen. Beck** discussed entry level 8 versus market value 8 pay scales.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 224 - 244}

Rep. Menahan said people who serve in the Legislature who are from the private sector continue to draw wages while the Legislature is in session.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 244 - 255}

Sen. Doherty questioned whether an increase of \$12 per day would entice new candidates to run for office.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 255 - 306}

Rep. Witt said he didn't consider the pay when deciding to run for office and that he believed none of the legislators took any of it home, but it was actually spent in this community due to their expenses.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 306 - 344}

Sen. Beck commented on this subject.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 344 - 360}

Sen. Keating commented that he chose to serve knowing it would be a sacrifice willingly paid during his 18 years. He objected to these amendments being placed on this bill so late in the session and would have preferred that they be treated as a separate bill introduced early in the session.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 360 - 455}

Vote: Motion failed 3-3 **Sen. Keating, Reps. Johnson and Witt voting aye.**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 10}

Discussion:

Rep. Johnson asked **John McEwen** to explain line 29 on page 7. The effect of that portion of the bill would be to increase some teachers' salaries a total of 12% over the next two years, while all other state employees would receive 6% in the same time period.

Motion/Vote: **Rep. Menahan** moved **THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED**. **Sen. Beck** stated that there no being further business the meeting would be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10 - 100; Comments : There was no motion to adopt the committee report.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:00 A.M.

SEN. THOMAS KEATING, Chairman

REP. ROYAL JOHNSON, Chairman

Joanne Gunderson, Secretary

TK/RJ/jg

EXHIBIT (cch84hb0013aad)